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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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January 9, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *JTM*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CHILDREN’S
THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES, INCORPORATED – RHO, ALPHA,
BETA, CHI, GAMMA, SIGMA, ETA, THETA, KAPPA, AND DELTA
GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Rho, Alpha, Beta, Chi, Gamma, Sigma, Eta, Theta, Kappa and Delta Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Children’s Therapeutic Communities, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Children Therapeutic Communities Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Rho Group Home was providing services for one Probation child; two San Bernardino children, one Riverside County child, one Contra Costa child, and one San Diego County child. Alpha, Beta, Chi, Gamma, Sigma, Eta, Theta, Kappa and Delta Group Homes were not providing services for any Los Angeles County children.

Children’s Therapeutic Communities Group Homes are located in Riverside County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the Rho Group Home review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the

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Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, the child's case records, a facility inspection, and an interview with the Los Angeles County child placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. The interview with the child is designed to obtain his perspective on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Additionally, since Children's Therapeutic Communities Alpha, Beta, Chi, Gamma, Sigma, Eta, Theta, Kappa and Delta Group Homes are not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at this time, the monitoring review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes only a facility inspection.

Summary of Findings

Rho Group Home is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Alpha, Beta, Chi, Gamma, Sigma, Eta, Theta, Kappa and Delta Group Homes do not have any facility and environment or safety deficiencies noted. A corrective action plan from the Agency is not necessary at this time.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jh
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Donald Botic, Executive Director, Children's Therapeutic Communities,
Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Children's Therapeutic Communities, Incorporated
Rho House Group Home
15709 Washington Court
Riverside, California 92504
Phone: (951) 789-4410
License Number: 336403782
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Rho Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child meets the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. The child was assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that the child is receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child is attending school. The child is provided with educational support and resources to meet his educational needs, and is progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

The child is provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides the child with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. The child is provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. The child participates in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which he has an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

The child is aware of his right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interview with child

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child is informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that he feels safe in the Group Home, and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of his interactions with staff, and reports that the staff treats him with respect and dignity.

The child reports that he is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. The child is able to attend religious services of his choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks.

The child receives voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to the child. The child is provided with opportunities to select his own clothes. Clothing provided to the child is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides the child with the required minimum weekly allowance. The child spends his allowance as he chooses.

The Group Home provides the child with adequate personal care items.

The child is encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

Children's Therapeutic Communities, Incorporated

Alpha Group Home
16346 Pick Place Riverside,
California 92504
Phone: (951) 780-2553
License Number: 330907893
Rate Classification Level: 12

Beta Group Home
15700 Russell
Riverside, California 92504
Phone: (951) 780-2457
License Number: 330908272
Rate Classification Level: 12

Chi Group Home
16652 Canyon View
Riverside, California 92504
Phone: (951) 780-5159
License Number: 330908755
Rate Classification Level: 12

Gamma Group Home
16430 Tamra lane
Riverside, California 92504
Phone: (951) 780-5019
License Number: 330908482
Rate Classification Level: 12

Sigma Group Home
18801 Cable Lane
Perris, California 92370
Phone: (951) 780-9030
License Number: 330908868
Rate Classification Level: 12

Eta Group Home
15170 Cayuse Court
Riverside, California 92504
Phone: (951) 780-2553
License Number: 336403976
Rate Classification Level: 12

Theta Group Home
16201 Gamble Avenue
Riverside, California 92504
Phone: (951) 789-4410
License Number: 336405675
Rate Classification Level: 12

Kappa Group Home
11485 Topo Lane
Lakeside, California 92040
Phone: (951) 780-2553
License Number: 370808101
Rate Classification Level: 12

Delta Group Home
17010 Via Los Caballeros
Riverside, California 92504
Phone: (951) 789-4410
License Number: 336409132
Rate Classification Level: 12

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

The Group Homes are located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Homes is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Homes is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Homes. The Group Homes provide a home-like environment.

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The Group Homes maintain age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Homes maintain a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.